#6: URNIU OF MESOPOTAMIA (PART ONE)

SOUTHERN IRAQ. MESOPOTAMIA

THIS IS QUITE THE ELABORATE PERFOR-MANCE FOR A MERE JOB OFFER.

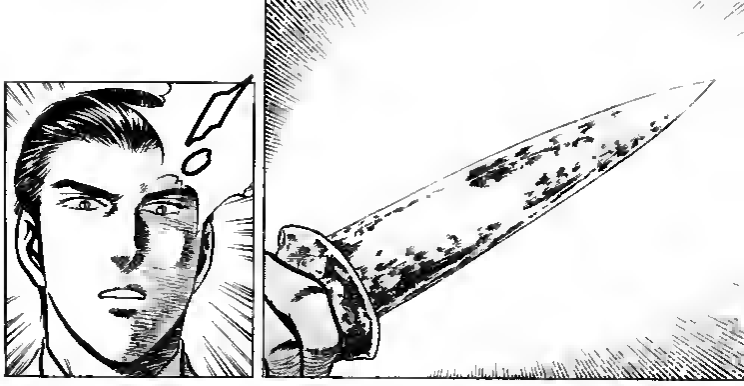
SO, WHAT IS IT...?
I HAVE MY REA-SONS.

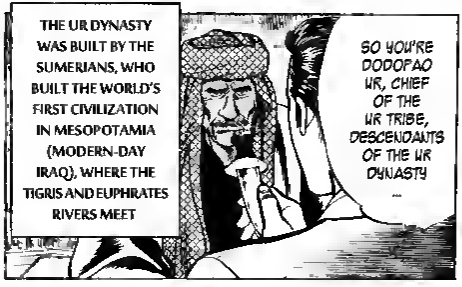
COULDN'T YOU GO ASK THE POLICE OR A DETE-CTIVE?

I WANT YOU TO FIND MY DAU-GHTER

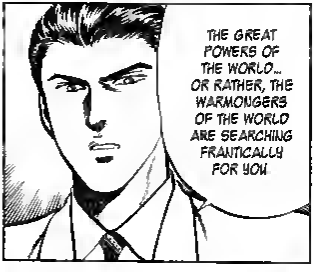
HERE IS YOUR RE-WARD

NO YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT




THE UR DYNASTY WAS BUILT BY THE SUMERIANS, WHO BUILT THE WORLD'S FIRST CIVILIZATION IN MESOPOTAMIA (MODERN-DAY IRAQ), WHERE THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS MEET
SO YOU'RE DODOPAO UR, CHIEF OF THE UR TRIBE, DESCENDANTS OF THE UR DYNASTY ...

ONE DAY, THE GODS DECIDED TO CAUSE A FLOOD TO DESTROY MANKIND IN ITS DEPRAVITY UTNAPISHTIM** LEARNED OF THIS, AND WORRIED ABOUT WHAT TO DO
THEY'RE INTERESTED IN THE 3000 BCE RELIEF OF THE "DELUGE MYTH" EXCAVATED FROM AN UR ZIGGURAT*

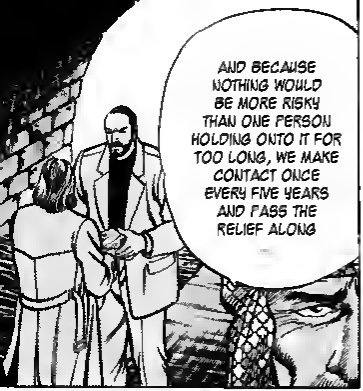


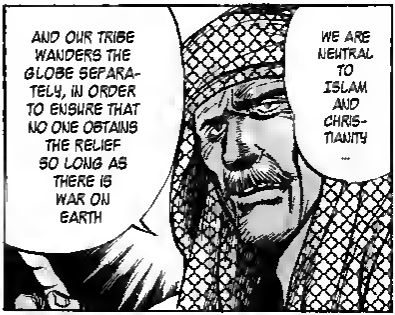
*ZIGGURAT = GIANT PYRAMID

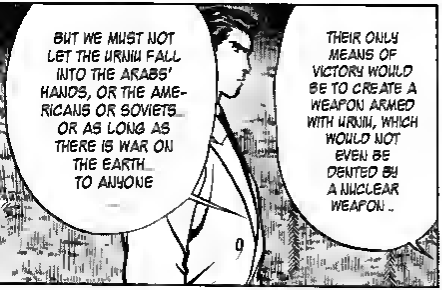
**UTNAPISHTIM = LATE UNUK DYNASTY HERO WHO IS KNOWN THROUGH EPICS. ANCESTOR OF GILGAMESH

SOME SAY THAT THE LEGEND OF NOAH'S ARK WAS BASED ON THIS RELIEF OF THE "DELUGE MYTH"...
UTNAPISHTIM LEARNED HOW TO MAKE A BOAT FROM THAT MAN. HE THEN GATHERED HIS FAMILY AND ANIMALS OF ALL KINDS, AND WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE FLOOD
THEN A MAN APPEARED BEFORE HIM, RIDING A BOAT HARDER THAN IRON, LIGHTER THAN COTTON, AND THINNER THAN PAPER
AND THAT RELIEF IS IN THE UR TRIBE'S POSSESSION!
BUT THE RELIEF DETAILED HOW TO CREATE THIS DREAM-LIKE METAL!
NOT EVEN MODERN TECHNOLOGY CAN CREATE SUCH A METAL.
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT METAL IS HARDER THAN IRON, LIGHTER THAN COTTON, AND THINNER THAN PAPER ?
.....
JUST AS EMPERORS THROUGHOUT CHINA'S HISTORY HAVE SOUGHT THE ELIXIR OF IMMORTALITY...
.....
THE WORLD POWERS HAVE SEARCHED FOR THAT RELIEF DURING WORLD WAR I AND II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR, AND MORE RECENTLY, THE GULF WAR... IN FACT, DURING ALL WARS!
THAT WAS WHEN HE FAMOUSLY SWALLOWED THE RELIEF.
HITLER FOUND AND CORNERED YOUR GRANDFATHER, LEOPAO UR

HE FOLLOWED THAT FORMULA TO MAKE EXCELLENT GOLD AND SILVER LEAF
AND REMOVED THE RELIEF, DECIPHERING IT TO FIND A FORMULA FOR GOLD AND SILVER LEAF...
HITLER CUT LEOPAO UR'S STOMACH OPEN WITHOUT ANESTHETIC ...
THAT LEGENDARY METAL HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS URNIU ...
GOLD LEAF FORMULA
SILVER LEAF FORMULA
URNIU FORMULA
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART HAD BEEN CUT OUT!
IF URNIU IS USED IN WAR, IT WOULD BECOME A DREADFUL WEAPON. WE HAVE REMAINED NEUTRAL SINCE THE DAY WE LEARNED OF IT.
WE THE UR TRIBE ARE NOMADS ...
AND I'M GUESSING THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS IN POSSESSION OF THE RELIEF THAT HAS THE FORMULA FOR URNIU.


AND BECAUSE NOTHING WOULD BE MORE RISKY THAN ONE PERSON HOLDING ONTO IT FOR TOO LONG, WE MAKE CONTACT ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS AND PASS THE RELIEF ALONG


AND OUR TRIBE WANDERS THE GLOBE SEPARATELY, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE OBTAINS THE RELIEF SO LONG AS THERE IS WAR ON EARTH
WE ARE NEUTRAL TO ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY ...


BUT WE MUST NOT LET THE URNM FALL INTO THE ARABS' HANDS, OR THE AMERICANS OR SOVIETS... OR AS LONG AS THERE IS WAR ON THE EARTH... TO ANYONE
THEIR ONLY MEANS OF VICTORY WOULD BE TO CREATE A WEAPON ARMED WITH URNM, WHICH WOULD NOT EVEN BE DENTED BY A NUCLEAR WEAPON..

YET THEY HAVE NO MEANS OF STANDING AGAINST AMERICA'S MILITARY MIGHT.
THE ARAB RADICALS' HATRED OF AMERICA HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED AFTER THE GULF WAR

DO YOU HAVE ANY LEADS ?

BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS TO MY DAUGHTER, IT IS THE RELIEF THAT WORRIES ME MORE !!
I DO NOT KNOW IF MY DAUGHTER IS DEAD OR ALIVE ...

Z !!

THIS IS THE ONLY LEAD I CAN GIVE YOU.
MEMBERS OF THE UR TRIBE ARE FORBIDDEN TO HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THEM. THE ONLY PHOTO THAT EXISTS IS THIS ONE SNAPSHOT FROM SWITZERLAND.
THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN FIFTY YEARS AGO. THE GIRL IN THE MIDDLE IS MY DAUGHTER, ODESSE UR, AT THE AGE OF SEVEN.
MY DAUGHTER WAS LAST SEEN IN MOS-COW.
SO YOU WANT ME TO FIND A 57-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WITH NOTHING TO GO ON BUT A PHOTOGRAPH OF A 7-YEAR-OLD GIRL ?
SWISS ALPS
ZERO'S VILLA

BUT IT DOES FOLLOW A LAW! IT HAS TO BE ON THE CURVE OF A CERTAIN CYCLE LINE
I CAN'T JUST MAKE THE FACIAL BONES BIGGER WITH THE SAME SHAPE, BECAUSE BONE GROWTH IS UNEVEN
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO AGE IT TO A 57-YEAR-OLD WOMAN'S
ALRIGHT. I'VE ANALYZED THE FACIAL STRUCTURE OF THE GIRL IN THE PHOTO
THIS IS IT!

NOW I JUST NEED TO MOLD THIS SKULL AND ADD FLESH ONTO IT
HER LIVING CONDITIONS... INCOME DISPARITY... CURRENT CONDITIONS IN MOSCOW
IF I FACTOR ALL OF THESE INTO THE CALCULATIONS, I CAN EASILY INFER HER APPEARANCE!

SHE'S QUITE PRETTY...
GOOD MORNING, ODESSEI
IT LOOKS LIKE I FELL ASLEEP AFTER GAZING INTO THOSE GENTLE, MOTHERLY EYES...

I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THIS SMILE STILL EXISTS IN THE WORLD ..
MOSCOW ..

MOSCOW, USSR
THIS COUNTRY IS STARVING. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF FOOD.
BUT THIS FOOD ALL GOES TO THE COOPERATIVES AND THE BLACK MARKET, WHERE IT IS SOLD AT FIVE OR TEN TIMES ITS VALUE, PRICES WHICH THE AVERAGE LABORERS AND PENSIONERS CANNOT AFFORD
WESTERN ECONOMISTS SAY THAT THE PROBLEM LIES IN THE COUNTRY'S STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK.
THESE MARKETS DO NOT DEAL IN SOVIET RUBLES THEY TRADE ONLY IN DOLLARS
BUT THERE ACTUALLY IS FOOD.

OH, YOU'VE MADE IT!
WE'VE BEEN EXPE-CTING YOU!
NOW, YOU ORDERED A LIST OF FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS TO MOSCOW, CORRECT ?
THIS WAY, PLEASE

THIS FILE CONTAINS A LIST OF THOSE 37 NAMES AND THEIR PORTRAITS.
OUR INVES-TIGATION HAS TURNED UP WITH 37 NAMES.
YES. I'M SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR WOMEN WHO ARE 57 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR
HEHEHE... SHOW ME THE MONEY FIRST
SOME OF THEM ARE DECEASED, BUT IN THOSE CASES WE INCLUDED THEIR MOST RECENT PORTRAITS BEFORE THEY PASSED ...
HERE YOU ARE
HEE HEE HEE

SHH HH HH !
THERE'S A CUS-TOMER THAT WANTS DRUGS... !

BOSS !

HE HE HE ...

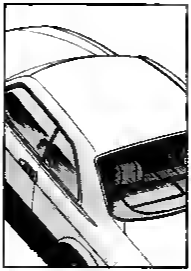
THE AUTHO-RITIES ARE CLAMPING DOWN ON DRUGS RIGHT NOW! TELL HIM WE HAVE PISTOLS SMUGGLED FROM THE ARMY!
HE HE HE

WE EVEN HAVE PEOPLE YOU COULD HIRE AS A HITMAN
YOU KNOW, THIS BLACK MARKET HAS EVERYTHING YOU COULD ASK FOR

YOU KNOW, IF THAT WAS ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANTED, YOU COULD'VE GONE TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR FREE... HEHEHE
ODIN, DVA, TRI...
HMPF.. THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS COUNTRY MORE FRIGHTENING THAN "FREE"

YEAH I'LL BE BACK WHEN I NEED YOU
PLEASE COME BACK

МЯСО



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FOHREN ELGELES SWISS THAT'S DEFINITELY AN ALIAS
SHE LIVES ON 7 GORKY STREET, NUMBER 11 THAT'S NOT FAR FROM BELORUSSIA STATION...
WHAT ?
I FOUND HER!
7 GORKY STREET
SHE'S DEAD !

COME ON IN-SIDE
IT WAS SUCH A TRA-GEDY
OF COURSE, SHE WAS KILLED FOR BEING A SPY, SO THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE COULD'VE DONE...
SHE WAS ON THE KRIM BRIDGE OVER THE MOSKVA RIVER, SURROUNDED BY CARS ON ALL SIDES ...

I HEARD SHE WAS CRYING
AND RESIGNED TO DEATH, SHE SHOT HERSELF IN THE HEAD ...
AND FELL INTO THE MOSKVA RIVER
BUT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN WEARING A WEIGHT OF SOME KIND, BECAUSE HER BODY STILL HASN'T RISEN TO THE SURFACE ...

KYAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
YOU'RE PRETTY TALKATIVE FOR A VETERAN AGENT!
KCH...

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE AUTHORITIES HAVE YET TO LOCATE THE SECRET SHE WAS CARRYING.
NOW I KNOW FOR SURE THAT POHREN ELGELES WAS MURDERED.
IF THE KREMLIN IS REALLY TELLING STATE SECRETS TO BUILDING MANAGERS, THAT'S TAKING GLASNOST A LITTLE TOO FAR
GO TELL THE KREMLIN THAT IF THEY WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET OF THE METAL THAT'S HARDER THAN STEEL, LIGHTER THAN COTTON, AND THINNER THAN PAPER, THEY'D BETTER NOT LAY A FINGER ON ME..!
.....
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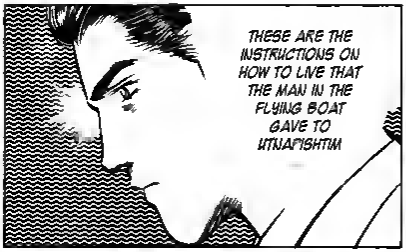
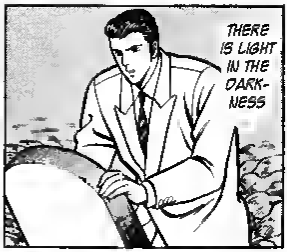
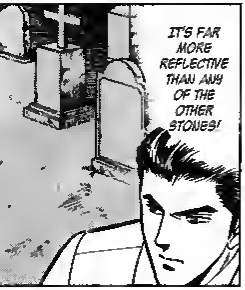
SUKA
!

FOHREN ELGELES
1934
THEY'VE EVEN DUG UP THE GRAVE THAT SHE BOUGHT IN LIFE
CU-UEI-FORM ..!?
BUT WHY DID SHE COME TO THIS COUNTRY, INSTEAD OF A NEUTRAL COUNTRY LIKE SWITZERLAND OR AUSTRIA ..?


THESE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO LIVE THAT THE MAN IN THE FLYING BOAT GAVE TO UTNAPISHTIM


THERE IS LIGHT IN THE DARK-NESS

THEY MUST BE THE WORDS THAT SUPPORTED HER, A WOMAN WHO COULD NOT LIVE AS ODESSEI UR, AND HAD TO DIE AS FOHREN ELGELES


IT'S FAR MORE REFLECTIVE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER STONES!

THE MOON-LIGHT IS REFLECTING OFF OF THE HEAD-STONE!

IT MUST BE A MAGIC MIRROR!

FOHREN ELGERS
1934 — 1991

SO THAT'S WHERE THE URUIM IS!

BIBLE

OH, NO !
ODESSEI, YOUR LAST MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED !

JUMP COMICS DELUXE

ZERO

THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 6
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING

EDITING BY
LUKESKYWALKER

SUPER MANGA COMICS